

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director, ORR

FROM : Chief, Geographic Division, ORR

SUBJECT: Air Force Contract on Photo-Interpretation Keys

DATE: 23 May 1952

1. On 22 May 1952 the Chief of the Reconnaissance Branch, AFOIN, with Mr. Roscoe, who is responsible for letting contracts for developmental research on photo-interpretation keys, conferred with General Ackerman, Deputy Director for Intelligence, USAF, regarding the proposed contracts for fiscal year 1953. General Ackerman indicated that the development of regional keys for the Soviet Union and neighboring areas is an essential requirement of the Air Force and that the Directorate should make capabilities available within its own organization. This was a great surprise to Colonel Setchel and Mr. Roscoe because they had previously informed that T/O ceilings would not allow the necessary increase in staff. There is still considerable question as to whether the necessary administrative adjustment for doing this work can be made within the Directorate.

2. The Reconnaissance Branch, AFOIN, still believes that the Central Intelligence Agency could do a better research job under the proposed contract than any other organization other than itself. Therefore, Mr. Roscoe believes it would still be advisable to submit the enclosed memorandum. He is extremely sorry that this unexpected development has arisen to confuse the issue.

3. I believe that we should maintain a certain degree of optimism in regard to the availability of the contract and, in any event, should plan with a view toward developing a permanent photo-analysis staff.

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Enclosure: As stated

ORR:D/G [redacted] :mk

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